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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,325	01/31/2002	Hideki Akiyama	0505-0949P	5566

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EXAMINER

TORRES, MELANIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/059,325

Applicant(s)

AKIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie Torres

Art Unit

3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-11 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

CHRISTOPHER P. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 9-11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawada et al.

Re claim 9, Ichikawa et al. teach a shock absorbing structure (45) for a vehicle (11) including a shock absorbing member projecting from a vehicular body comprising a front end of the shock absorbing member located forward of a front wheel (13), an upper end of the shock absorbing member positioned so as not to block a forward viewing area of an operator of the vehicle, right and left side surfaces of the shock absorbing member being offset to a center of a vehicular body from right and left side surfaces of the vehicular body and a center of a leading end contact surface of the shock absorbing member located at a vertical position higher than a position of a center of gravity of both the vehicle and the operator wherein the upper end includes a forward section (46 on Fig. 2) with an inclined upper surface so that the forward viewing area is not obstructed.

Re claim 10, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the shock absorbing member (45) includes a plurality of reinforcing ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 49, 53) formed for absorbing the shock.

Re claim 11, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of reinforcing ribs includes ribs (51) with partially thinned sections for facilitating the absorption of the shock as ribs 51 are thinner than sections 46 and 47.

Re claim 14, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of reinforcing ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 49, 53) are arranged to be bilaterally symmetric with respect to an axis of the shock absorbing member.

Re claim 15, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 49, 53) are divided into a plurality of sections within the shock absorbing member for sequentially absorbing a shock.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, and 5-8 are allowed.
4. Claims 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 19, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states in the response that claim 9 includes the limitations of claim 13 and is therefore allowable. This is not the case. There is no mention whatsoever of a top wall, right and left side surfaces and the orientation and position of these limitations as stated in the cancelled claim in claim 13. It is the examiner's position that the prior art still applies to the claims as stated above. Therefore, the rejection has been maintained.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Torres whose telephone number is (703)305-0293. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on (703)308-3421. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-2571 for regular communications and (703)308-2571 for After Final communications.

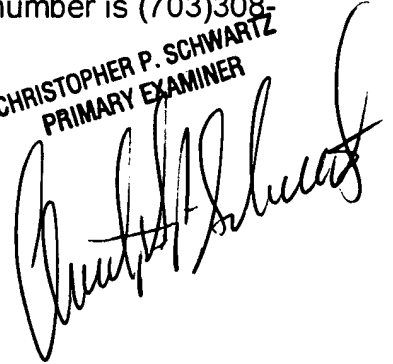
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

MT
April 30, 2003

CHRISTOPHER P. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher P. Schwartz", is written over the printed name and title.